

**MINUTES
MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
November 7, 2012
10:00 a.m.
Conference Call – Director's Office
Helena, Montana**

Montana Historical Society Board of Trustees members present: Jim Murry, Bob Brown and Bob Morgan

Board of Trustee Members present through Conference Calling: Steve Lozar, Lee Rostad, Shirley Groff, John Lepley, Janene Caywood, Sharon Lincoln, Kent Kleinkopf, Tom Nygard, Ed Smith, B. Leslie Halligan and Jim Utterback

MHS Board of Trustee members excused were: Jim Court and Crystal Wong Shors

Staff present: MHS Director Bruce Whittenberg; MHS Administrative Assistant, Renee Podell; MHS Development Officer, Susan Near; Senior Curator of Collections, Jennifer Bottomly-O'looney; and MHS Centralized Services Program Administrator, Denise King.

CALL TO ORDER

President Steve Lozar called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL-Renee Podell

WESTERN RENDEZVOUS OF ART DISCUSSION AND MOTION

President Lozar explained that the Executive Committee met on November 2, 2012 to discuss the revenue numbers generated by the August, 2012 WRA sale. The consensus of the Executive Committee was that the numbers showed there was a continuous decline in revenues in the area of registration and sales. Discussion was held also on the three-way split of proceeds and it was agreed that this split is inequitable. Recommendation of the committee was to give the WRA a rest for 2013.

Bruce Whittenberg noted that the WRA has been a highly respected event and it has generated a lot of cash over the years. The sale co-sponsors, employees and volunteers have done an incredible job. He commented that art sales are down which means that the MHS return on investment of time and money is a drain on employees and volunteers. Bruce called for a new and clear focus on launching a major fundraiser towards building the new Heritage Center commenting that this will take a significant time commitment for all involved.

President Lozar asked Thomas Nygard to give his opinion of the art market during these difficult economic times. Mr. Nygard commented that the state of the contemporary art market is dismal

at best. He stated that the sales numbers are on the low end and that there are other ways to put forth hours and hours of staff time. He asked everyone to get very creative in order to come up with a signature fundraiser event that will give the MHS a 50% return.

Bob Morgan said that he agrees with Thomas Nygard. He further stated that the current three-way split of funds doesn't work.

MOTION: Jim Utterback moved to accept the Board of Trustee's Executive Committee's recommendation to not move forward with a WRA sale in 2013. Shirley Groff seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

President Lozar asked Bruce Whittenberg to please contact the event organizers.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

10:25 a.m.